

REMARKS

This Amendment is to the final Office Action mailed January 24, 2005. Claims 1 to 8, 10 to 29, 31 to 35, 38 to 58, 60 to 66, 68 to 71, 73, 95 to 97, 99, 101, 103 to 108, 110 to 113 and 115 were pending previously in this application. Claims 1 to 8, 10 to 16, 18, 20 to 28, 38 to 43, 62 to 66, 68 to 71, 73 and 95 to 97 stand rejected. Claims 36, 37 and 74 to 94 were previously withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1 to 15, 17, 25 to 28, 30, 38 to 43, 49, 59, 62 to 73, 95 to 98, 102, 109 and 114 have been canceled. Claims 29, 31 to 35, 44 to 48, 50 to 58, 60, 61, 99 to 101, 103 to 108, 110 to 113 and 115 have been allowed. Claims 17 and 19 have been objected to but would be allowed if amended to include all base game limitations. Claims 16, 18 and 19 have been amended herein.

In the Office Action, Claims 25 to 28, 38 to 43, 62 to 66, 68 to 71, 73 and 95 to 97 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 3 to 8, 10 to 16, 18 and 20 to 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,656,146 to Clayman et al. ("*Clayman*"). Claims 25 to 28, 38 to 43, 62 to 66, 68 to 71, 73 and 95 to 97 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,543,087 to Sommercorn et al. ("*Sommercorn*"). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of *Clayman* and U.S. Patent No. 5,057,075 to Moncrief et al. ("*Moncrief*").


Claims 1 to 15, 17, 25 to 28, 30, 38 to 43, 49, 59, 62 to 73, 95 to 98, 102, 109 and 114 are currently canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. For purposes of public notice, Applicants submit that they believe the canceled claims to be patentable and reserve the right to (i) pursue those claims in one or more continuation or divisional application and (ii) contest a rejection of the claims should one be made in such application. Claim 16 has been amended to include the objected to elements of canceled Claim 17. Claims 18 and 19 have been amended to have the proper dependency and not (i) for any reason relating to patentability, (ii) for any statutory reason, or (iii) to disclaim any subject matter with respect to the art of record.

Appl. No. 09/689,508
Reply to Office Action of January 24, 2005

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified patent application is now in a condition for allowance and earnestly solicit reconsideration of same.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 22, 2005